

[22 February, 2001}

RAJYA SABHA

Subsidy on food

† 150. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that subsidy on food for the financial year 1999-2000 is estimated to the tune of rupees 10,000 crore which was rupees 5,100 crore during the year 1994-95;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and whether it is also a fact that support prices for procurement of wheat and paddy from farmers have also been increased considerably during the said years; and

(c) if so, the support prices for procurement of wheat and paddy during the years 1994-95 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Provision for food subsidy during 1999-2000 was Rs. 9,200/- crores. Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for procurement of wheat and paddy during 1994-95 and 1999-2000 were as follows:—

Marketing Year	Wheat	(Rs. per qti.)		
		Paddy		
		Com.	Fine	S. Fine
1994-95	350	340	360	520'
1999-2000	550	490		3«0

* Categorised as common and Grade 'A' only with effect from 1.12.1997.

Problems of surplus/shortage of foodgrains

151. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain States are facing the problems resulting from plenty of foodgrains like Andhra Pradesh and Punjab while other States like Orissa and Chhattisgarh are facing the problem of shortage of foodgrains and starvation case are taking place; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to solve the problem of both categories of States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Due to mounting stock levels with FCI far exceeding the buffer norms temporary storage problems are being faced in major procuring Regions of Andhra Pradesh and Punjab. However, entire stocks are being accommodated by creating additional storage space and by moving stocks from these States.

There is no storage of foodgrains in the States of Orissa and Chattisgarh and adequate stocks are being maintained in both these States for meeting their monthly allocation under PDS. Welfare Schemes and special allocations as the following figures will indicate:

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

Name of State	Scheme	Allocation for Feb. 2001		Stock position as on 1.2.2001	
		Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat
Orissa	PDS	69.68	20.00	484.37	60.15
	MDM	10.11	4.10		
	*FFW	80.00			
	DROUGHT	16.00			
Chattisgarh	PDS	31.00	11.00	532.57	234.32
	*FFW	257.00	-		
	MDM	31.00			

Note (*)—Allotted for Jan. 1 to Mar. 1

PDS= Public Distribution System

FFW= Food for Work

MDM= Mid-day meals

(b) To solve the problem of surplus States of Andhra Pradesh and Punjab there is augmentation of storage capacity programme by additional hiring and construction according to pattern of procurement off-take and sale of food grains in the consuming States. In the consuming State, FCI is maintaining adequate stocks throughout the year which at present is far exceeding the allocations made for PDS, Welfare Scheme and special additional allocations on account of drought, floods, etc.